

Message Text

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44

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0273

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD, FI

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF OFFICE SPACE

1. IN ORDER TO BETTER INTEGRATE MISSION OPERATIONS, IMPROVE EFFICIENCY, PERMIT SOME COST AND PERSONNEL SAVINGS, AND ADD TO SECURITY, EMBASSY CONDUCTING STUDY OF FEASIBILITY OF RELOCATING PRESENT USIS OFFICES (EXCLUDING THE AMERICA CENTER LIBRARY) FROM DOWNTOWN TO EMBASSY COMPLEX. SHIFT MAY INVOLVE ALSO LONG-DESIRED MOVE OF MARINE HOUSE OUT OF EMBASSY ANNEX AND OF DAO OFFICES FROM SECOND TO THIRD FLOOR OF ANNEX. COSTS INVOLVED LIKELY BE CONSIDERABLE, AND DIFFICULTIES ANTICIPATED IN FINDING SUITABLE NEARBY SPACE FOR MARINE HOUSE.

2. BEFORE ANY FIRM RECOMMENDATION COULD BE MADE CONCERNING SUCH CHANGES, WE NEED TO KNOW THE STATUS OF THE PLANNED NEW CHANCERY BUILDING. IS THERE A PROJECTED OR ESTIMATED DATE AS TO WHEN CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN? ANTICIPATED RELOCATION COSTS MAY NOT BE WARRANTED IF CONSTRUCTION EXPECTED BEGIN IN NEXT FEW YEARS.

3. SUGGEST SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THIS POSSIBLE ANSWER THAT THE PROSPECTIVE BUILDING BE DONE IN STAGES. EVENTUALLY A GARAGE AND STORAGE SPACE COULD BE MADE FROM TEMPORARY BARRACKS FOR THE MARINES. I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE FAR WISER IN THE LONG RUN THAN TO ACQUIRE TEMPORARY SPACE

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REQUIRING TRAVEL FOR THE MARINES WHO NEED TO BE CLOSE AT

HAND.

4. IN ANY EVENT, DEPT. SHOULD NOTE THAT USIS NOW WISHES TO
OBTAIN CONSIDERABLE OFFICE AND POSSIBLY LIBRARY SPACE IN NEW
BUILDING. PREVIOUS PLANNING BASED ON USIS
STATEMENT IT REQUIRED ONLY SINGLE OFFICE FOR PAO.

5. PLEASE ADVISE.
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